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Letter dated 31 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit herewith the decisions of the meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held in Khartoum on 22 October 2018 (see annex). The meeting was convened pursuant to the decisions reached by the IGAD Heads of State and Government during the thirty-third Extraordinary Summit, held in Addis Ababa on 12 September 2018.

Having brought this matter to your kind attention, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Decisions of the meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development held in Khartoum on 22 October 2018

The IGAD Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces met in Khartoum, Sudan, on 22 October 2018, and His Excellency General (psc) Awad Mohammed Ahmad Ibn Ouf, the Minister of Defence of Sudan, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates and wishing them fruitful deliberations. The meeting was chaired by General Kamal Abdelmarouf, Chief of Joint Staff of the Sudan Armed Forces, upon request from General Seare Mekonen, Chief of General Staff of Ethiopia.

The meeting was attended by General Seare Mekonen, Chief of General Staff of Ethiopia; General Kamal Abdelmarouf, Chief of Joint Staff of the Sudan Armed Forces; General Gabriel Jok Riak Makol, Chief of Defence Forces of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces; General Patrick Nyamvumba, Chief of the Rwanda Defence Staff; Brigadier General Ali Mohamed Taher, Deputy Chief of Defence Forces of Djibouti; Lieutenant General Robert Kariuki Kibochi, Vice-Chief of Defence Forces of the Kenya Defence Forces; Brigadier General Bile Ibrahim Adam, Vice-Chief of Defence Forces of Somalia; and Major General Peter Elwelu, Commander of Land Forces of Uganda.

Chapter I. References

The meeting was convened pursuant to the decisions of the Assembly of IGAD Heads of State and Government reached during the thirty-third Extraordinary Summit on 12 September 2018, which, among other things:

(a) Resolved that IGAD shall engage the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the Regional Protection Force is fully deployed to execute its mandate in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2304 (2016) and 2406 (2018), and shall request for a further review of its mandate to allow Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti and Somalia as guarantors, to contribute forces to enhance the protection and security throughout the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan; and

(b) Mandated the IGAD Chiefs of Staff to assess the operational needs and elaborate the necessary tasks of the Regional Protection Force in light of the current situation on the ground, and the prospected expansion, as a basis for a securing endorsement from the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council.

Chapter II. Decisions

Following a briefing on the current security situation in South Sudan by General Gabriel Jok Riak Makol, Chief of Defence Forces of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF), the Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces deliberated extensively on the modalities for the implementation of the IGAD Heads of State directives and decided as follows:

1. To establish an assessment team comprising two representatives from each of the troop-contributing (3+4) countries (total: 14) that would visit the Republic of South Sudan to assess the current situation and present a report to the IGAD countries'

Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces in their second meeting, on 15 November 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2. Sudan is to nominate the chairperson of the Assessment Team and the Team is to start its mission in South Sudan within seven days.

3. South Sudan is to assist the Assessment Team in its work.

4. To request the IGAD Special Envoy to facilitate all the logistical needs of the Team, and the African Union, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism and all other partners to provide the necessary assistance during the Assessment Team's mission.

5. Agreed on the terms of reference for the Team (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) General Kamal Abdelmarouf
Chief of Joint Staff
Republic of Sudan

(*Signed*) General Gabriel Jok Riak Makol
Chief of Defence Forces
Republic of South Sudan

(*Signed*) Brigadier General Ali Mohamed Taher
Deputy Chief of Defence Forces
Republic of Djibouti

(*Signed*) Brigadier General Bile Ibrahim Adam
Vice-Chief of Defence Forces
Republic of Somalia

(*Signed*) General Seare Mekonen
Chief of General Staff
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

(*Signed*) General Patrick Nyamvumba
Chief of Defence Staff
Republic of Rwanda

(*Signed*) Lieutenant General Robert Kariuki Kibochi
Vice-Chief of Defence Forces
Republic of Kenya

(*Signed*) Major General Peter Elwelu
Commander of Land Forces
Republic of Uganda

Enclosure

Terms of reference for the Joint Technical Assessment Team

Reference

1. With reference to the meeting of the IGAD Chiefs of Staff/Forces held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 22 October 2018, which decided to compose a team to assess the security situation and tasks of the Regional Protection Force in the Republic of South Sudan in accordance with the communiqué of the Extraordinary Summit of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government of 12 September 2018 in Addis Ababa.

Composition

2. The Team shall be composed of two senior officers with a rank of not less than colonel from each of the IGAD member States, to be led by Sudan, deputized by Ethiopia.

Time frame

3. The team shall report back to the Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces on 15 November 2018.

Tasks

4. The team shall perform the following tasks:

   a. Assess the security situation on the ground in South Sudan in full coordination with SSPDF and other stakeholders (UNMISS, African Union);

   b. Submit a report to the next meeting of the IGAD Chiefs of Staff/Forces within the time frame mentioned;

   c. Assess the current operational status of the Regional Protection Force and viability within the UNMISS mandate.

Procedures

5. The team shall hold its meetings in the Republic of South Sudan, to be facilitated by SSPDF.

6. Each member State shall send names of their representatives within three days of signing this document.

7. The IGAD Special Envoy shall coordinate and facilitate the administration and logistics, which include travel, accommodation, food.